

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 055248

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055248

TOSEC 376

FOLLOWING REPEAT LISBON 1347 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BONN, BRASILIA,
LONDON, LOURENCO MARQUES, LUANDA, MADRID, PARIS, NATO, DIA WASHDC,
USCINCEUR, OPORTO, PONTA DELGADA, MARCH 12TH:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1347

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: COUP ATTEMPT

REF: LISBON 1344

SITREP NO. 23 AS OF 10:30 A.M. LOCAL (FINAL SITREP)

1. THIS WILL BE FINAL SITREP CONCERNING MARCH 11 COUP ATTEMPT.
LISBON AND REMAINDER OF PORTUGAL HAVE RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL.
THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS OF FURTHER MILITARY ACTIVITIES.
PARATROOP UNIT AT TANCOS WHICH INITIATED COUP IS UNDER CONTROL
OF NEWLY APPOINTED COMMANDING OFFICER AND DEPUTY. TRAFFIC AND
BUSINESS ARE NORMAL IN LISBON (EXCEPT THAT BANKS ARE CLOSED) WITH
NO CIVILIAN OR MILITARY CHECK POINTS AND NO SIGNS OF SPECIAL
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PAGE 02 STATE 055248

MILITARY PRECAUTIONS. EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE CONTINUE TO BE

PROTECTED BY SMALL DETACHMENT OF MARINES. THERE IS SOME ACTIVITY NEAR LISBON BANK OFFICE, WHOSE DIRECTOR HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

2. NO ATTACKS HAVE BEEN LAUNCHED AGAINST THE EMBASSY, AND THE UNPROTECTED PLATE GLASS WINDOWS OF THE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER ACROSS STREET ARE INTACT. WE UNDERSTAND BRAZILIAN EMBASSY AND RESIDENCE ARE "GUARDED" BY SELF-APPOINTED CIVILIANS SEEKING IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE ENTERING AND LEAVING PREMISES. PRESUME THIS RELATED TO REPORT THAT SPINOLA MAY BE HEADING FOR EXILE IN BRAZIL.

3. AFM SPOKESMAN VASCO LOURENCO STATED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON SCHEDULE. AFM ALL NIGHT MEETING ISSUED COMMUNIQUE THIS MORNING ON INSTITUTIONALIZATION, ELECTIONS, AND A POSSIBLE CABINET CHANGE (SEPTTEL).

4. VASCO LOURENCO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT GALVAO DE MELO WAS NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN COUP ATTEMPT. GALVAO DE MELO IS APPARENTLY STILL IN VISEU WHERE HE REPORTED TO LOCAL MILITARY UNIT IMMEDIATELY UPON LEARNING OF COUP ATTEMPT.

5. POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE ALL RESPONDED TO COUP WITH CONDEMNATIONS. PPD HEADQUARTERS IN LISBON HAS NOT BEEN ATTACKED.

6. REVIEW OF NAMES ON COSTA GOMES' LIST (REFTEL) OF THOSE IMPLICATED IN COUP SUGGESTS THAT MOST OF THE ACTUAL PLOTTERS ARE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED WITH OLD REGIME. IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND HOW SPINOLA ALLOWED HIMSELF TO GET INVOLVED WITH THIS GROUP.
CARLUCCI UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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